

Just before nightfall the flock again convenes, but after a half hour or so of spasmodic dancing, groups fly silently away in different directions to grassy depressions, where they spend the night.

One pair nested in this vicinity and I was fortunate enough to find the simple nest. It was upon a slight rise in a large moist meadow. The two yellowish green, brown-spotted eggs were kept off the ground only by a few blades of grass.

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### EFFECTS OF WEATHER IN NORTH-EASTERN IOWA, SPRING, 1910.

BY ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.

The effect of weather conditions on bird movements this spring in north-eastern Iowa has been similar, no doubt, to that in other portions of the country. Here the average noon temperature for March was fifty-five degrees, which was twelve degrees above the average for the past eleven years. This unseasonably warm weather continued during the first half of April, followed by a second edition of winter, north winds and frosty nights prevailing until the middle of May. Temperature for the first half of May fell seven degrees below the average. Of the earlier migrants most of the breeding species came at their usual time, and took their places, having few attendant birds even of such abundant species as the Junco, Robin and Blackbirds. Not an individual was seen of several species that are regarded as tolerably common in most years. The warm weather brought but two birds out of season that were seen, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, on March 28, and a Solitary Sandpiper on April 14; both of them a little more than two weeks in advance of their average dates for first arrivals. Dates for migration and nesting in this locality will have no suggestive value unless it is kept in mind that ordinarily they are from one to two weeks later than are such dates in northern Ohio, or the vicinity of New York City.

The cool weather during the second half of the migration

season seems to have retarded first arrivals from two to six days beyond the average time. A south wind and bright sunshine on May 14 brought a strong influx of birds, nineteen species being seen on that day for the first time this year. It was upon activities connected with nesting that the variant weather appears to have had the greatest influence. Prairie Chickens were heard booming on March 24, and White-rumped Shrikes were courting on the following day. Nests of the latter species were found, one containing one egg on May 2, and another with four eggs on the next day. A Screech Owl on our place laid her first egg on March 27, and her last egg was hatched in the afternoon of April 29. Five eggs of a Crow hatched between the mornings of April 30 and May 2. A Meadowlark's nest found early in the last week of April containing four eggs had the first one hatched on May 6. Three Flickers went to roost in our barn on the evening of March 31, which was fifteen days earlier than any previous record, and the first Flicker's egg was laid there on May 5, ten days in advance of the average date. The male Brown Thrasher, that is a summer resident of this place, arrived on April 29, but his mate did not join him here until May 6, unless she escaped the close watchfulness of three people. The pair began nest-building early the next morning and the first egg was deposited on May 13. This is the most expeditious settlement to nesting ever observed here.

Far less fortunate has been the early nesting of some other birds. A Song Sparrow's nest, containing five eggs, found on April 19, was deserted and filled with snow four days later. The snow storms and freezing weather of this period caused a Bluebird to desert her nest in which the first egg was laid on April 14; and a few Robins' nests were found with broken eggs in them.

*National, Iowa.*